

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An object retention system for securing an object in a rotatable carousel having an axis of rotation, the system comprising:

A4 (a) a latching hub mounted within the rotatable carousel about the axis of rotation;

(b) at least one object within the rotatable carousel, each object having a latch reciprocal configured to mate with the latching hub between the object and the axis of rotation; and,

(c) at least one retainer adjacent each object, each retainer configured to maintain contact between one of the latch reciprocals and the latching hub.

2. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein:

(a) the latching hub includes at least one prominence; and

(b) each latch reciprocal has a depression formed therein for receiving one of the prominences of the latching hub.

3. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein:

(a) each latch reciprocal includes a prominence; and

(b) the latching hub has at least one depression formed therein for receiving the prominence of each latch reciprocal.

4. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein each retainer is springable to permit insertion and removal of each object.

5. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the latching hub is springable to permit insertion and removal of each object.

6. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the latching hub is substantially coextensive with each object.

7. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein each object includes first and second ends and wherein the latch reciprocal of each object is positioned centrally between the first and second ends of each object.

8. (currently amended) A method for securing an object in a rotatable carousel having an axis of rotation, the method comprising:

A₄ (a) mounting a latching hub within the rotatable carousel about the axis of rotation;

(b) providing a retainer within the rotatable carousel;

(c) inserting an object, having a latch reciprocal, into the rotatable carousel;

(d) mating the latch reciprocal with the latching hub between the object and the axis of rotation; and,

(e) the retainer maintaining contact between the latch reciprocal and the latching hub.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 further including:

(a) providing the latching hub with a prominence; and

(b) forming a depression in the latch reciprocal for receiving the prominence of the latching hub.

10. (original) The method of claim 8 further including:

(a) providing each latch reciprocal with a prominence; and

(b) forming a depression in the latching hub for receiving the prominence of the latch reciprocal.

11. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein inserting the object includes:

(a) the object displacing the retainer, permitting the latch reciprocal to partially bypass the latching hub;

(b) the retainer returning to lock the latching hub against the latch reciprocal.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein inserting the object includes:

(a) displacing the latching hub, permitting the latch reciprocal to partially bypass the latching hub; and

(b) the latching hub returning to lock the latching hub against the latching reciprocal.

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13. (currently amended) An object retention system for retaining an object on a rotatable carousel, the system comprising:

(a) a rotatable carousel having an axis of rotation;

(b) a latching hub mounted within the rotatable carousel about the axis of rotation;

(c) an object within the rotatable carousel and having a latch reciprocal ~~and a stop~~, the latch reciprocal configured to mate with the latching hub; and,

(d) at least one retainer mounted within the carousel ~~adjacent the stop~~, each retainer configured to maintain contact between the latch reciprocal and the latching hub.

14. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein:

(a) the latching hub includes a prominence; and

(b) the latch reciprocal has a depression formed therein for receiving the prominence of the latching hub.

15. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein:

(a) the latch reciprocal includes a prominence; and

(b) the latching hub has a depression formed therein for receiving the prominence of the latch reciprocal.

16. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein each retainer is springable to permit insertion and removal of each object.

17. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein the latching hub is springable to permit insertion and removal of each object.

Any 18. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein the latching hub is substantially coextensive with the object.

19. (original) The system of claim 13 wherein the object includes first and second ends and wherein the latch reciprocal is positioned centrally between the first and second ends of the object.
